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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/236,373	01/25/1999	BRUCE A. BUHLER	71-673-1	1565
7590	02/12/2009		EXAMINER	
Steven W. Weinrieb LAW OFFICES OF STEVEN W. WEINRIEB 8717 Cold Spring Road Potomac, MD 20854			PRICE, CARL D	
		ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER	
		3749		
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			02/12/2009	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/236,373	BUHLER, BRUCE A.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Carl D. Price	3749	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 04-03-2008.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-3 and 5-26 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-3,5-26 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All b) Some * c) None of:
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ . |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ . |

Reissue Application

Continuing Obligation under 37 CFR 1.56

Applicant is reminded of the continuing obligation under 37 CFR 1.178(b), to timely apprise the Office of any prior or concurrent proceeding in which Patent No. **5,755,568** is or was involved. These proceedings would include interferences, reissues, reexaminations, and litigation.

Applicant is further reminded of the continuing obligation under 37 CFR 1.56, to timely apprise the Office of any information which is material to patentability of the claims under consideration in this reissue application.

These obligations rest with each individual associated with the filing and prosecution of this application for reissue. See also MPEP §§ 1404, 1442.01 and 1442.04.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims **1-3** and **5-26** have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

In the response filed on **04/03/2008**, applicant argues that the prior art relied on in the previous office action fail to show, disclose and/or teach certain aspects of applicant's invention recited in the claims.

In response to the prior art of record cited in the previous examiner's action and in support of the scope of the invention presented in the amended claims, applicant argues the following:

"In connection with the rejection of the noted claims based upon the noted prior art of record, it is reiterated to the Examiner that the present invention as currently claimed patentably defines over all of the art of **Wetzler, Japanese ('713), Barnes et al., or Ito**. More particularly, independent Claims 1,9,13,16, and 20 have been appropriately amended so as to set forth the fact that in accordance with the present invention, the tip head comprises three flame which together define a substantially complete circumferential flame array for substantially completely heating the entire circumferential extent of the member as clearly shown in the left side of FIGURE 2 of the patent drawings. More particularly, or stated in other words, what the presently claimed invention has been capable of achieving is the heating of the entire circumferential extent of the member to be treated with only, three flame orifices."

In response to applicant's argument(s) directed to the prior art previously relied on, and in response to the scope of the invention now set forth in the presently amended claims, the following examiner's action now relies on the prior art reference of **JP 55048713 (Inoue)** (of record). Most notably, with regard to the now claimed invention, **JP 55048713 (Inoue)** shows and discloses a loop-form nozzle 7 is connected at its neck part 71 to a small-size flame torch 6 or the like as a heater, which uses butane or acetylene as its fuel. The ends of the loop-form 7 are open and therefore the nozzle is so disposed that a butt face position of two members to be fused are at the center of the nozzle 7. Fusion welding heat is provided when high temperature applied from the three flame spray ports 72, provided along the curved tip profile at an angle of 120°, is applied to the butt face, whereby the butt face is fusion welded and connected.

Accordingly, while applicant's arguments have been carefully considered, applicant's claims do not patentably distinguish applicant's invention over the prior art of record.

See the examiner's action herein below.

Defective Reissue Declaration

Claims 1-3 and 5-26 are rejected as being based upon a defective reissue Declaration under 35 U.S.C. 251 as set forth above. See 37 CFR 1.175.

The nature of the defect(s) in the Declaration is set forth in the following discussion:

The Reissue Declarations filed **01/25/1999** failed to properly identify at least one 35 U.S.C.251 error. It is not sufficient for an oath /declaration to merely state “.... Applicant claimed less than he had a right to claim by including recitations to the oxygen passageway and oxygen control means of Claim 1, and the first and second closed ends of the tip head of Claim 9.” Rather, the oath /declaration must specifically identify an error. See *In re Constant*, 827 F.2d 728, 729, 3 USPQ2d 1479 (Fed. Cir.), cert. denied, 484 U.S. 894 (1987). Any error in the claims must be identified by reference to the specific claim(s) and the specific claim language wherein lies the error. The error statement in the reissue oath or declaration of 1/25/99 with presentation of newly added claims 13-26 would not be considered a sufficient "error" statement since

applicant has not pointed out what the original claims 1-12 lacked that the newly added claims 13-26 have, or vice versa. Such a statement would be no better than saying in the reissue oath or declaration that "this application is being filed to correct errors in the patent which may be noted from the change made by adding new claims 13-26." In both cases, the error has not been identified.

Supplemental Declaration

A supplemental oath/declaration under 37 CFR 1.175(b) (1) is needed to cover errors corrected by amendment filed **040/3/2008** (add or delete limitations in claims and add or delete claims after filing the Declaration on 1/25/99). Form paragraph 14.05.02 may be used for this matter. To cure this defect, applicant should use Form PTO/SB/51S which maybe downloaded from the USPTO website. See MPEP § 1444 for handling supplemental oaths/declarations.

The reissue claims broaden the scope of the patented claims in at least one respect even though they are narrower in other respects. MPEP 1412.03(I). Therefore, the Supplemental Declaration must be signed by all inventors (not the assignee). MPEP 1414.01 (III). See also In re Hayes, 53 USPQ 2d 1222.

Drawings

§ 1.83 Content of drawing.

(a) The drawing in a nonprovisional application **must show every feature of the invention specified in the claims.** However, conventional features disclosed in the description and claims, where their detailed illustration is not essential for a proper understanding of the invention, should be illustrated in the drawing in the form of a graphical drawing symbol or a labeled representation (e.g., a labeled rectangular box).

The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a). The drawings must show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Therefore, the ports being angularly oriented to generate flames extending from first to a second plane, etc. and the flames projecting outwardly with respect to the first plane to achieve heating along the second plane (see, for example, the last paragraph of claim 1) must be shown or the feature(s) canceled from the claim(s). These structural details are essential for a proper understanding of the disclosed invention since

applicant has amended the claims to include these limitations in an attempt to distinguish the claimed invention over the prior art of record. No new matter should be entered.

Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. The figure or figure number of an amended drawing should not be labeled as "amended." If a drawing figure is to be canceled, the appropriate figure must be removed from the replacement sheet, and where necessary, the remaining figures must be renumbered and appropriate changes made to the brief description of the several views of the drawings for consistency. Additional replacement sheets may be necessary to show the renumbering of the remaining figures. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either "Replacement Sheet" or "New Sheet" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

Claims 1-3 and 5-26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention. The subject matter which was not described in the specification includes the limitation in the recitation: *"said three flame orifices are angularly oriented with respect to said first plane of said tip head so as to open toward a single axial position which is disposed within a second plane which is disposed parallel to said first plane of said tip head and which is located at a second predetermined axial position along said axis of said tip head which is axially offset from said first predetermined axial position of said first plane of said tip head and within which said three flame outlet orifices are disposed so as to thereby project flames outwardly from said three flame outlet orifices at a predetermined angle with respect to said first plane of said tip head so as to thereby achieve heating of the member, within and along said second plane,*

attendant a metal bonding operation to be achieved along said second plane.” (claim 1, for example).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

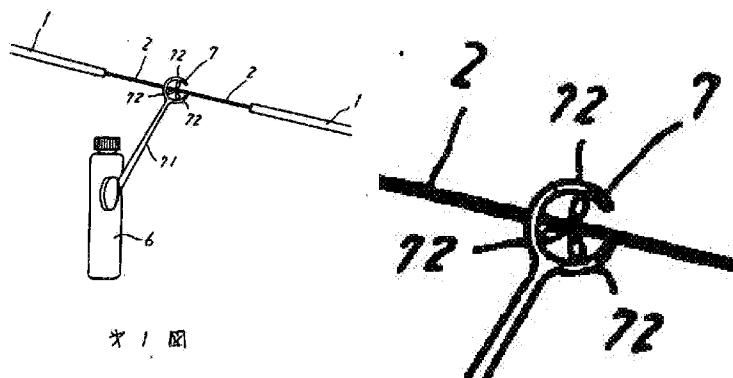
The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-3 and 5-26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over **JP 55048713 (Inoue)** (of record; see the English language translation now provided) in view of **US 3279701 (Falk et al)**, **US 4231777 (Lynch et al)** or **US 4477244 (Nis et al)** and **US 1734316 (Wetzler)**.

JP 55048713 (Inoue) shows and discloses a loop-form nozzle 7 is connected at its neck part 71 to a small-size flame torch 6 or the like as a heater, which uses butane or acetylene as its fuel. The ends of the loop-form 7 are open and therefore the nozzle is so disposed that a butt face position of two members to be fused are at the center of the nozzle 7. Fusion welding heat is provided when high temperature applied from the three flame spray ports 72, provided along the curved tip profile at an angle of 120°, is applied to the butt face, whereby the butt face is fusion welded and connected.

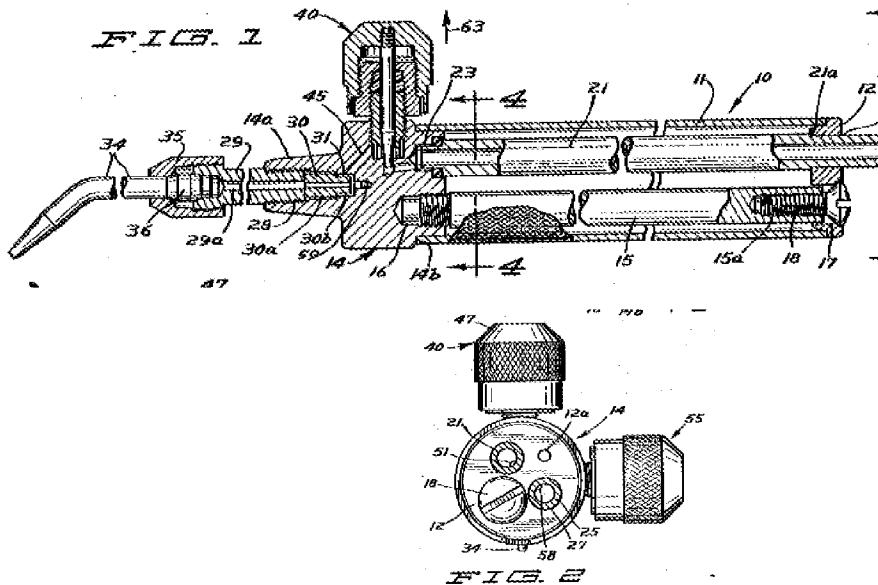
JP 55048713 (Inoue) shows and discloses the gas pressure from each flame spray port are cancelled out, thus preventing shaft deviation by gas pressure.



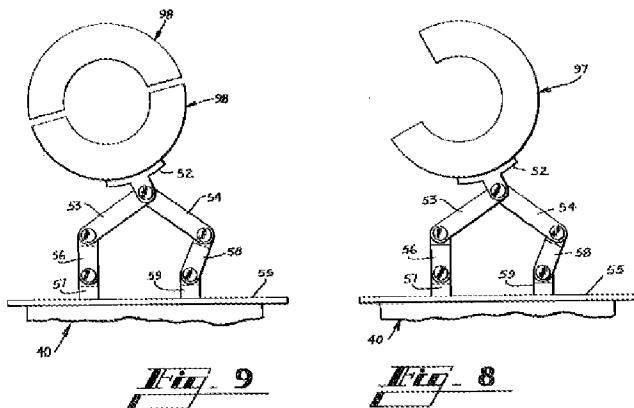
JP 55048713 (Inoue) disclose the invention substantially as set forth in the claims with possible exception to:

- the curve of the torch head extending through between 240 and 280 degrees;
- the torch head having separate fuel gas and oxygen supply passages therein; and
- control means on the torch head and associated with each of the fuel gas and oxygen passages to selectively block the flow there through; and
- the three flame orifices are angularly oriented with respect to said first plane of said tip head so as to open toward a single axial position which is disposed within a second plane which is disposed parallel to said first plane.

US 3279701 (Falk et al) teaches, from the applicant's same torch head field of endeavor, forming a integral torch head and handle tube (11) to include separate fuel gas and oxygen supply passages (21, 25) therein and control means (40,55) on the torch head and associated with each of the fuel gas and oxygen passages to selectively block or control the flow there through. **Falk et al** includes a tip stem (29) communicating with the fuel and oxygen passages and connected to a tip head (34) having a flame orifice.



US 4231777 (Lynch et al) teaches (figures 8,9; column 6,lines 43-50),), from applicant's the same torch head field of endeavor, alternative or selectively forming the semi-circular segment of the burner head to be greater than 180 degrees.



US 4477244 (Nis et al) teaches (see column 3, line 64 - column 4, line 5), from applicant's the same torch head field of endeavor, that:

FIG. 5 shows a side view of an exemplary nozzle plate 16. All of the interleaved grooves 32 and 36 in groups 29 and 29' are radially directed at common line 81 while the slots in groups 30, 30' and 31, 31' are radially directed at the common lines 82 and 83, respectively. Common line 82 is on the centerline of the tube 90 while common lines 81 and 82 are on the outer surface of the tube. Although each of the three groups are directed towards different common lines in the exemplary embodiment **it may be advantageous to direct the grooves of several groups at the same common line when the number of groups or the size of the tube increases.**

And,

The instant torch 10 is efficient and relatively inexpensive to fabricate. Additionally, the torch 10 may be repaired simply by replacing any of the three basic components (i.e., the outer members 12 and 14 and the nozzle plate 16). Furthermore, **the heat zone and flame pressure areas provided by the instant torch 10 may be modified by simply changing the size of the grooves 32 and 36 and/or the thickness of the nozzle plate 16 as well as the number of groups of grooves.**

And,

“Although the exemplary torch uses an oxygen-hydrogen mixture, other gas combinations such as methane, propane or the like can be used. Additionally, the exemplary embodiment depicts the use of three groups of grooves. **However, the number of groups and their arcuate spacing may be adjusted to alter the width of the heat zone.** The instant torch 10 having three arcuately spaced groups of grooves provided a heat zone having approximately one-half the length (i.e., 1.25" to 2.5") of hot zones generated by the torch shown in U.S. Pat. No. 4,401,267.”

And,

“It is to be understood that the embodiments described herein are merely illustrative of the principles of the invention. **Various modifications may be made thereto by persons skilled in the art which will embody the principles of the invention and fall within the spirit and scope thereof. For instance, the torch 10 is arranged to provide an arcuate surface of approximately 180 degree., however the**

arc can be less than or greater than 180.degree. and may be 360 degrees forming an annulus through which a tube 90 may pass.

U.S. Patent Oct. 16, 1984 Sheet 3 of 4 4,477,244

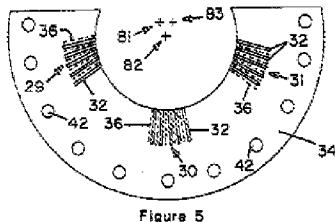
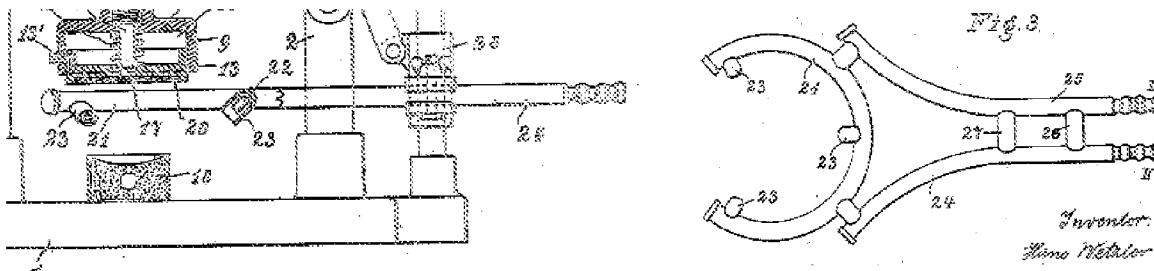


Figure 5

US 1734316 (Wetzler) which shows an arcuate torch head (21), **only three** flame openings (23) equally spaced at an angle of at least 100 degrees (i.e. – approximately 140 degrees as measured from figure 3 in Wetzler), where two are immediately adjacent the terminal ends of the arcuate member (23), a fuel supply connection or opening (24 or 25) located between an intermediate located and terminal end located flame port (23), and wherein the flame openings are inclined to “issue **flames uniformly** on a mould 18 from **above and all sides**”(emphasis added) wherein the heated member is located in a plane other than that defined by the arcuate torch (21).



In regard to claims 1-3 and 5-26, for the purpose of forming an integral torch head and handle tube, it would have been obvious to one with ordinary skill in the art to modify the torch head and handle of JP 55048713 (Inoue), to include a integral torch head and handle tube having separate fuel gas and oxygen supply passages therein and control means on the torch

head/handle tube associated with each of the fuel gas and oxygen passages to selectively block or control the flow there through, in view of the teaching of **Falk et al.**

Also, in regard to claims **1-3** and **5-26**, since the number, relative orientation, spacing, burner arc length, etc. would depend on numerous design concerns such as the size or circumference of an article to be heated, as taught by **Nis et al** or **Lynch et al**, the type of fuel burned, the amount of heat to be applied to the article heated, the flame size, the desired distribution of heat over the heated surface, etc., to space the orifices at an angle of 100 degrees, to form the tip to have an arcuate extent of 120 degrees, less than about 280 degrees, at least about 245 degrees, attach the stem at a point midway between a second and third orifice, etc. can be viewed as nothing more than mere mattes of choice in design absent the showing of any new or unexpected results produced there from over the prior art of record.

And, in regard to claims **1-3** and **5-26**, while thought to be unsupported by the specification as originally filed, it would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art to modify the three flame orifices of **JP 55048713 (Inoue)** to be angularly oriented with respect to said first plane of said tip head so as to open toward a single axial position which is disposed within a second plane which is disposed parallel to said first plane of said tip head and which is located at a second predetermined axial position along said axis of said tip head which is axially offset from said first predetermined axial position and wherein the at least two of the flame orifices are immediately adjacent the to the curved torch head terminal ends, in view of the teaching of **US 1734316 (Wetzler)**.

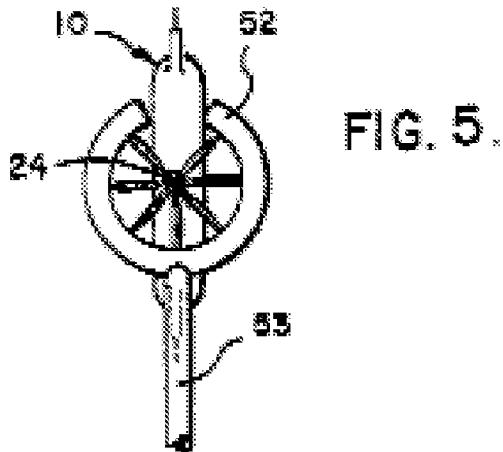
Also, in regard to claims **1-3** and **5-26**, the recitation “for heating a member attendant a metal bonding operation” has not been given patentable weight because the recitation occurs in the preamble. A preamble is generally not accorded any patentable weight where it merely recites the purpose of a process or the intended use of a structure, and where the body of the claim does not depend on the preamble for completeness but, instead, the process steps or structural limitations are able to stand alone. See *In re Hiram*, 535 F.2d 67, 190 USPQ 15 (CCPA 1976) and *Kropa v. Robie*, 187 F.2d 150, 152, 88 USPQ 478, 481 (CCPA 1951). And, the claim limitation that heating is “within and along said second plane, attendant a metal bonding operation to be achieved along said second plane.”, is a recitation of the intended use of the claimed invention must result in a structural difference between the claimed invention and

the prior art in order to patentably distinguish the claimed invention from the prior art. If the prior art structure is capable of performing the intended use, then it meets the claim. In a claim drawn to a process of making, the intended use must result in a manipulative difference as compared to the prior art. See *In re Casey*, 152 USPQ 235 (CCPA 1967) and *In re Otto*, 136 USPQ 458, 459 (CCPA 1963).

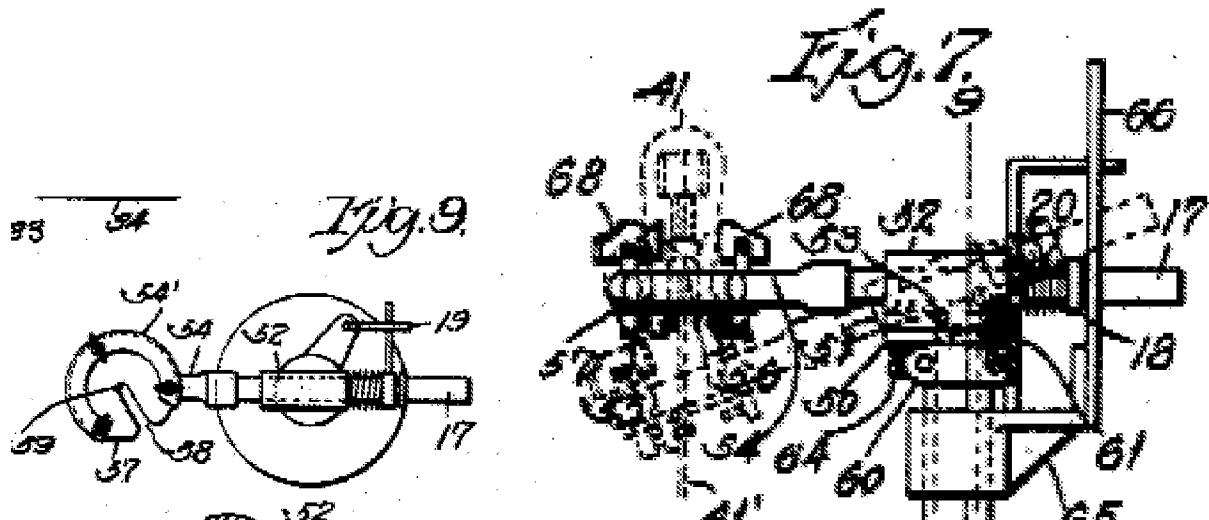
Conclusion

See the attached PTO FORM 892 for prior art made of record and not relied upon which is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

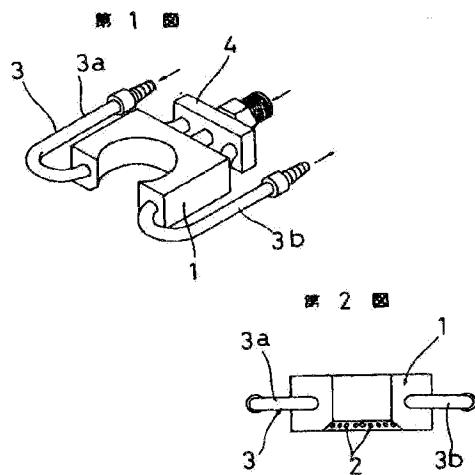
US 3188778 (Wiener et al) teaches (figure 5; column 3, line 69 - column 4, line2 and column 4. lines 60-72), from applicant's the same torch head field of endeavor, selectively forming the semi-circular segment (52) of the burner head to accommodate, through an arcuate distance to defined a gap to facilitated the insertion of the member to be heated into the interior of the tip head through a side portion of the tip head.



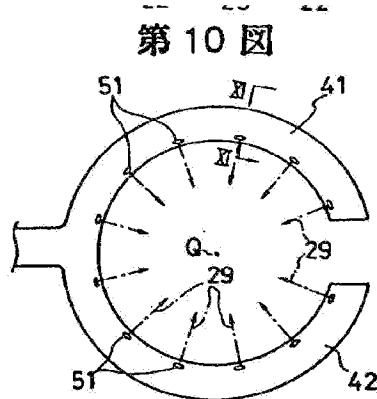
US 1819597 (Eisler) (of record) which shows discloses an arcuate torch head having three equally spaced flame ports (55; tips 56) arranged to produce a substantially complete circumferential flame array likely *substantially* completely heating the entire circumferential extent of the member.



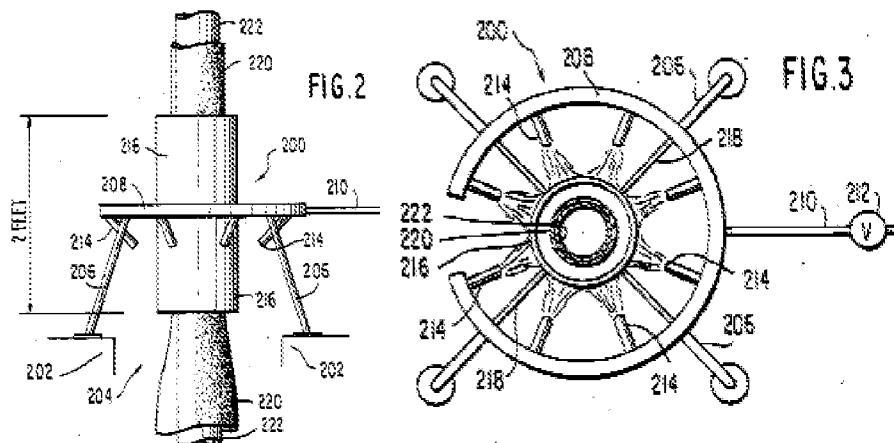
Japanese 58-142310 (figures 1-2) and Japanese '570 (figure 10) show and/or disclose torch heads and handles having separate fuel gas and oxygen supply passages therein and control means on the torch head and associated with each of the fuel gas and oxygen passages to selectively block the flow there through. **Japanese '310** includes a tip stem (4) communicating with a fuel/oxygen passage and connected to an arcuate shaped tip head (Figures 1,2) and having at least a first, second and third angularly spaced orifices (2) which open toward a common point. And, **Japanese '310** discloses and shows flames directed angularly from a first burner head plane to a second heater member intersecting plane (figure 2).



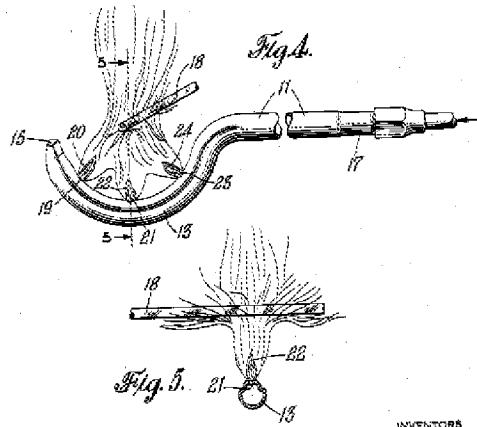
Japanese '570 shows at least a first, second and third angularly spaced orifices (2) which open toward a common point.



US 4671833 (Bradford) discloses nozzles 214 have a width of 2 inches, have a length of 5 inches and are eight in number, generally spaced around gas ring 208. Preferably eight flame nozzles 214 are used, but the number of flame nozzles 214 can readily be from three to ten or more, keeping in mind that uniformity of heating sleeve 220 and pipe 222 is what is sought. Preferably nozzles 214 are set at an angle of 40 to 60 degrees to the longitudinal axis of vertical casing 216. Nozzles 214 are set at such an angle to make sure that the end of casing 216 is heated to the desired temperature so as to quickly heat shrink heat-shrinkable sleeve 220 to a substantial amount as it is coming into casing 216.



US 2608031 (Barnes et al) (of record) which show an arcuate torch head (13) and *only three* equally spaced flame ports (23) arranged to produce a *complete* circumferential flame array for *completely* heating the entire circumferential extent of the member (18), even though the arcuate member extends only 180 degrees.



US 3618197 (Yoshinori Ito) which shows (figure 5) an arcuate torch head (figures 1A-1D13) having only two equally spaced inclined flame ports (94, 95) arranged to produce a substantially complete circumferential flame array for *completely* heating the entire circumferential extent of the member.

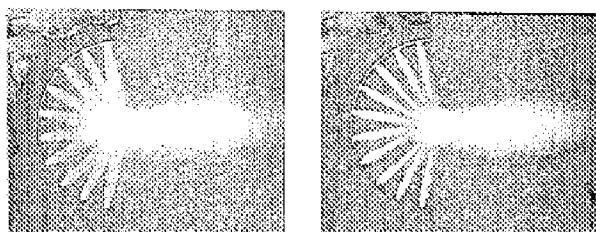


FIG. 1A

FIG. 1B

USPTO CONTACT INFORMATION

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Carl D. Price whose telephone number is (571) 272-4880. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday between 9:00am-5:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Steven B. McAllister can be reached on (571) 272-6785. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Carl D. Price/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3749

Cp